

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

SAJ-01 SAM-01 CU-02 OMB-01 /074 W

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R 130930Z AUG 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6197

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1597

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY PINT CH

SUBJECT: PRC RESTRICTED CIRCULATION DAILY CARRIES REPORTS ON EARTH
QUAKE

1. THE AUGUST 4 EDITION OF THE PRC'S RESTRICTED CIRCULATION TSAN-KAO HSIAO-HSI (REFERENCE NEWS) CARRIES TWO FRONTPAGE ARTICLES ON THE CHINESE EARTHQUAKE. ONE OF THESE IS AN EYEWITNESS PIECE BY NCUSCT REPRESENTATIVE JOHN KAMM REPRINTED FROM THE AUGUST 2 TA KUNG PAO. THE OTHER ARTICLE EXCERPTED PAKISTANI PRESS COVERAGE OF THE CATASTROPHE.

2. BOTH ARTICLES WERE OBVIOUSLY SELECTED WITH CARE. DEVOID OF ANY INTIMATION THAT THE EARTHQUAKE HAD BEEN CATASTROPHIC, THEY STRESS THE LAUDABLE DISCIPLINE AND FAILURE TO PANIC ON THE PART OF ORDINARY CHINESE. THE PAKISTANI PIECE NOTES THAT THE CHINESE PEOPLE "HAD SEEMINGLY RECEIVED TRAINING BEFOREHAND IN HOW TO COPE WITH A CALAMITY".

3. COMMENT: THIS BLAND COVERAGE IN THE SOMETIMES MORE CANDID REFERENCE NEWS APPEARS CALCULATED TO BOLSTER MORALE AND REINFORCE THE OFFICIAL LINE THAT "THE HEROIC PEOPLE ARE INVINCIBLE". WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT
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THE CHINESE PEOPLE AND EVEN CADRES HAVE STILL BEEN TOLD

LITTLE OR NOTHING ABOUT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CATASTROPHE.
INDEED, ONE EMBASSY TOLD US THAT ITS LOCAL STAFF HAD
UNPRECEDENTEDLY ASKED TO READ FOREIGN PRESS ACCOUNTS
OF THE EARTHQUAKE.

4. COPIES WILL BE POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES.
GATES

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Message Attributes

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